REMARKS
ON THE
IMPOSITIONS
OF
QUACKS,
So much Practiced in this
KINGDOM.

WHEREIN

Is expoſed to the PUBLICK, the Means of diſtinguiſhing them from Able *PHYSICIANS* and *SURGEONS.*

AND

How much it is to be wiſhed that the Laws would appoint ſome effectual Means to ſuppreſs theſe vile Ways of Practicing, ſo prejudicial to his Majeſty's Subjects.

By Vint. B[illegible]t *Sworn Surgeon.*

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

REMARKS
ON THE
IMPOSITIONS
OF
QUACKS, &c.

AS the Truth needs no Apology, and that what is here inſerted will prove ſufficiently for itſelf, therefore I ſhall not trouble the Reader with either Apology or Preface.

THERE is nothing repreſents more the Character of a Quack, than in publiſhing in the News, and printed Bills, the ſeveral Cures that he pretends to have done, and wherein he boaſts of the Infallibility of his Specificks, with which he picks Pockets, ſooner than he can cure any Diſeaſe.

This Truth is ſo well known among Perſons of good Senſe, that if a Phyſician or Surgeon, ſhould by his continual application and ſtudy arrive to the perfect knowledge of ſome Diſcoveries, uſeful for the common Good, and afterwards publiſh them in the News, he would be look'd upon, without any diſtinction, to be no better than them.

It is by this ſlight way of not profounding or examining deeply the difference of a true Advertiſement to that of a Quack, that the Publick is deprived of theſe Advantages they might receive from thoſe who really make Diſcoveries, for the following Reaſons.

All the World acknowledges that the beſt Thing that ever *Lewis*, XIV. did during his Reign, was the encouraging Arts and Sciences, by rewarding of the Ingenuity of thoſe who made any Diſcoveries for the publick Good: Thus we remark that *France* was never ſo fertiliz'd with Improvements as it was in his Time; but having not the like Encouragements in this Kingdom, the laborious Artiſt has no other recompence but that of making himſelf known. There is two Means by which one may arrive to it; the one is to publiſh by Writing thoſe Diſcoveries made, the other to gain the Recommendation of a Perſon of Diſtinction. Thus it follows, that he

he that has had the Ingenuity of inventing, but has not wherewithal to purſue it, nor the Gift of Writing, often looſes his Labour and he is no better rewarded, who has not the good Luck to meet with good Protectors.

So it happens that the Expences and Labour of arriving to a high Degree of perfection in Art muſt be buried; and if he publiſhes himſelf in the News, he muſt be reputed as a Quack. It is this unjuſt reflection which is the Cauſe that the Publick is deprived of the Advantages of daily Diſcoveries, which Evil could eaſily be prevented, if they would give themſelves the Trouble to diſtinguiſh the one from the other by this ſtrict Enquiry.

It muſt be affirm'd as a Truth, that all Perſons who publiſh themſelves in the News, without being qualified before, with the Title of Phyſician by the Univerſities or College of Phyſicians, or the Title of Surgeon by the whole Body of Surgeons, ſuch a Man ought to be look'd upon as a Quack, for the following Reaſons.

1ſt. A Phyſician who is a Member of the College of Phyſicians, is obliged to give an Account of his Conduct whenever the Aſſembly requires it of him.

2d. A Surgeon who is a Member of the Surgeon's Hall, is ſubject to the ſame obedience, at the Penalty of 200 *l.* 3d.

3d. THESE Bodies of Phyſicians and Surgeons have not a Right to oblige any Perſon who takes upon himſelf the Title of a Phyſician or Surgeon to appear before them, nor cannot oblige them to pay any pecuniary Penalty; for if they had that Power, I am perſuaded they would ſuppreſs the daily Impoſitions of thoſe Impoſtors, ſo deſtructive to Mankind.

SOME will ſay that if every one was to take directly the Idea I give of them we call Quacks, that it would undoubtedly cauſe their Ruin, and that thoſe People having no other ſupport for the Maintainance of their Families, neceſſity obliges them to put in Practice that way of Induſtry. There is means enough to get an honeſt Livelihood when People are willing to take Pains, tho' not ſo profitable.

BUT Idleneſs taking Place with theſe ſort of People, they could not well fix themſelves upon any thing better, by which they get, with little Pains, Sums of Money extorted from People, which afterwards cauſe them to be burthenſome to Work-Houſes and Hoſpitals, and dreadful Objects about the Streets, ſo offenſive to every Body, and in particular to Women with Child, by which the *Embryo* is too often prejudiced.

THUS it is, without any regard to their Con-

Conſciences, that thoſe Fellows prefer this abominable Practice to that of getting their Livings honeſtly; and with a wilful blindneſs they deſtroy the Health of ſome, cripple and murder others for the Lucre of Money, at whoſe Expence 'tis at is no matter. They know the Law has appointed no puniſhment for them, they live in a free Nation, where they are not tax'd Criminals or Murderers; but if it was Street-Robbers, Houſebreakers, or Highwaymen they would be tranſported or hanged; but flaying People alive, murdering them in their Beds, are Things tolerated and over-look'd, becauſe the *Grand* and *Myſterious Name* they make uſe of being Travellers, by Sea and Land being Doctors of *Germany*, *Switzerland* and the *Antipodes*, puts 'em above the juſt Proſecution of the Law.

I don't pretend; by what is here advanced, to preſcribe Rules to the Nation, I leave that intirely to the great Wiſdom of the Legiſlative Power, only itwere to be wiſh'd, for the publick Good, that ſuch vile Practices were ſuppreſs'd and aboliſh'd.

After theſe general Remaks it will not be amiſs to take Notice of ſome particular Ones.

1ſt. The Art or Science of Phyſick is ſo extenſive, that it has been divided in three Parts, which is Phyſick, Surgery and Pharmacy.

2d. That Surgery being the moſt delicate Part, is divided in ſeveral Branches, ſome practiſing only that Part which belongs to the Operation of the *Stone*, others for the Diſeaſes of the *Eyes*, others in *Midwifry*, and others, whoſe particular Care is in Curing *Venereal Diſeaſes*, and performing all other Operations required in that Art. From whence one may eaſily judge, that a Surgeon who has apply'd himſelf only in any one of theſe Branches, muſt certainly become more experienced in that Part he has apply'd himſelf moſt to, whether it be in the Nicety of an Operation, or in the Cure of Diſeaſes.

These Circumſtances appearing ſo plain, that the Publick can hardly let themſelves be impoſed on, and by that juſt diſtinction thoſe who are afflicted with the moſt dangerous Diſtempers, will have the Satisfaction to know where to have recourſe to.

After all the aforeſaid Reaſons that have been given, I ſhall not trouble myſelf much at the Criticiſm or Chimerical Names that may be advanced againſt me, in offering publickly the Cure of the Venerial Diſeaſe without Salivation, which I here propoſe to demonſtrate; but to remove the conſited Opinions of the moſt Part of my Profeſſion, which I gueſs, will, at the firſt Appearance, exclaim againſt this Innovation, it will not be

be amiſs to obſerve ſome Rules already received in Phyſick.

In the firſt Place, it is known that Phyſicians and Surgeons acknowledge, that the Mercury taken inwardly or applied outwardly, is the beſt Specifick Remedy that has been hitherto found for the Cure of the moſt inveterate Pox, whether it acts by its penetraction in the whole Maſs of Blood, by the imperceptible diviſion of its Globulous Particles, which precipitates by its own Weight, all the Heterogeneous Bodies that it meets with, or elſe that theſe little Spherical Bodies of the Mercury loading itſelf with the aſcids of the Venom, carries it off by Secretions and Evacuations. This is what I leave to the Determination of the Phyſicians, altho' it is ſufficient for me to know that it does actually Cure that Diſtemper.

Secondly, the Queſtion is to know, if giving the ſame Quantity of this Mineral, apply'd outwardly or taken inwardly, will as ſafely cure the Pox, as if it was by the Means of Salivation; it is what I can eaſily prove by Practice and Experience, grounded upon as ſolid Reaſons as they, who are for the Syſtem of Salivation; but as thoſe Particulars would lead me too far, and inſenſibly engage me to ſpecify all the Circumſtances, which would not fail to give

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an Inſight to thoſe of my Profeſſion to practiſe after the ſaid Method, I ſhall content myſelf to expoſe Facts of Practice, following in that, the Example of that Great Man, Mr. *Chieanneaud*, Profeſſor in Phyſick at the Univerſity of *Monpellier*, with this ſingular Advantage, that I can produce to any Gentleman, before the moſt able Phyſicians and Surgeons, that I have cured Perſons of the moſt inveterate Pox without Salivation; but the great Diſtance from this Country not permitting Mr. *Chieanneaud* to produce perſonal Experiments, has given occaſion to a Criticiſm publiſhed here in *Engliſh* againſt him, which I could very eaſily confute, without the help of Rhetorick or Philoſophy; but as I ſeek not to diſoblige any Perſon I ſhall keep ſilent upon this Point.

If any one objects, that ſome Years ago, I was engaged in a Deciſion of this kind, it was becauſe I was obliged to anſwer them in my own Defence; as it was required of me by ſome Phyſicians and Surgeons to examine a Patient, and give my Opinion of his Caſe, which I did accordingly; but the Surgeon Mr. *De---l*, under whoſe Care the Patient was, not being ſatisfied with my Report, put himſelf in ſuch a furious heat that within a Fortnight's time, he had got the Opinions of above Thirty *Engliſh* and

French

French Surgeons againſt my Opinion, altho' grounded upon internal Symptoms of the Pox, thinking by the Violence of his Proceedings to make me paſs for an ignorant Fellow and Calumniator; but what is more particular, ſome of the aforeſaid Gentlemen, after they had approved of the Relation that I was obliged to draw up in my own Defence, and which was ſigned by their Hands, when the Time came for the final Deciſion at *Surgeon's-Hall*, they had the Baſeneſs to retract, for what Reaſons I cannot yet comprehend, for ſeveral diſown'd their Opinions, by Declarations in Writing, and by word of Mouth, contrary to their Signature, and injurious to Truth. ‡ Others appear'd in Perſon at the Hall to maintain their bad Cauſe; † but what ſurpriz'd me the moſt, was to hear the Name of a Surgeon, who keeps his Chariot, and who paſſes to be one of the moſt Skilful Surgeons in that Diſtemper,* who after he had received his Fees retracted himſelf in Writing, in that Manner that little tends to his Honour.

It was in conſideration of theſe multitudes of Opinions againſt mine, that the Maſters of *Surgeon's-Hall* did not do me the ſame Juſtice, as would have been done by the Maſter Surgeons of *Paris*, or *Monpellier*.

‡ Dioré. † Mr. F——. Mr. P——.

pellier. Mr. *Fern* excepted, who ſtrictly inſiſted on the Truth of my Opinion, which ſoon after appeared by outward Symptoms, which being hidden before, prov'd to be the grand Miſtake of thoſe Gentlemen; for in fifteen Days after their imperfect Deciſion the outward Symptoms appearing, the Patient was treated by two different Doctors, by the Means of the Salivation, without ſucceſs; then a Third, (who had gained great Fame in a certain Tavern, by a learned Conference he had with the pretended Dr. *Petit*) put to proof his famous Pills, the Infalibility of which he ſo much boaſts of, could not Cure this Patient, who ſoon after died, being overpower'd by the ſaid Illneſs. I could add to this Relation other juſt Reflections, which I reſerve for a better Opportunity; but having ſufficiently troubled the Reader with a Relation which concerns only thoſe in this Caſe, I ſhall conclude in giving an Explanation of this New Method.

It is to cure, in a moſt eaſy Manner, all the Degrees of the Venereal Diſeaſe, without Salivation, that I have erected a Bagnio for that Uſe, and for Bathing, Sweating, and for the Preparation of my Remedies. I have alſo furniſh'd my Rooms for the Conveniency of ſuch Gentlemen who will be pleaſed to rely themſelves to my Care,

or

or follow the Preſcription of their Phyſician. The Rule and Courſe of Diet is much the ſame of the Salivation; the Patient keeps the Room for three Weeks or a Month, but without any Danger or Conſtraint: They may converſe freely with their Friends, and paſs the time much more agreeably than their Condition will allow of in the Salivation. The Prices of Cure is proportionable to the Degree of the Malady, and according to the Attendance required; and to the Capacity of ſome, and the Generoſity of others.

As I was not willing to expoſe this Method by any publick Advertiſement, I have kept my Bagnio open for the Space of two Years, in hopes to have found an Opportunity of making myſelf known to ſome Perſon of Diſtinction; being perſuaded that the Recommendation of one Nobleman would be ſufficient to put me in Reputation without making uſe of theſe Means; And what confirms this Truth is, during all that time I never would accept of Women in Men's Company; and if any Perſon can prove the contrary, I'll forfeit to them an hundred Pounds.

The ſecond Reaſon was, Although I was very well aſſured that I could perform the Cures by the aforeſaid Method, yet I could not expoſe it to the Publick without running

ning the Hazard of being cenſur'd by our Hall, for the want of producing a complete Cure, with all the Circumſtances required.

1*ſt*, Circumſtance to prove that a Patient had the Pox, by the Teſtimony of the Phyſician; which was very eaſy to prove.

2*d* Circumſtance to give authentick Proofs that I had cured a Patient without Salivation; which I could prove as well as the firſt.

3*d* Circumſtance that there ſhould be a conſiderable Length of Time to be aſſured of the Cure, without fear of any Relapſe.

THIS I make the chief circumſtantial Proof by the narrow Relation of the Fact. The 9th of *December* 1723, I was called to her Grace the late Ducheſs of —— to viſit a Gentleman. After I had examin'd him, and conſider'd his Condition, I gave an Account of it to her Grace, who by her extraordinary Goodneſs, order'd me to employ the beſt of my Endeavours to eaſe him for the Time he had to live. I had ſo good Succeſs in following my Method, that in the Space of two Months I perfectly cured him without Salivation. It is what I can juſtify whenever required, by ſufficient Teſtimonies of the Family. The ſaid Patient had been cured of the Pox by Salivation three Years before. Eighteen Months

Months after he catch'd a Gonorrhæa and Shanker, but endeavouring to cure himſelf, it happen'd about a Year after he was ſeized with violent Pains in his Head and Legs, and upon the Shin of the Os Tibia, which increaſed more and more during the Night. Some little time after a Deafneſs ſeized him, and he became reſtleſs, with nocturnal Pains in all his Joints, a ſlow Fever, Vomiting, ſpitting of Mattery Blood, Exoſtoſie upon the Os Tibia, and Rottenneſs in the Bones of the Noſe. All theſe Symptoms were attended with a fallen away or Leanneſs, and a univerſal Weakneſs all over his Body, that it was with much ado he could ſtir from his Bed. All the Diligence of her Grace's Surgeon was employed to no Purpoſe, the Phyſician aſſuring her Grace that his Illneſs was incurable, and that ſuppoſing it was curable, the Patient was not in a Condition to ſupport the proper Remedies for the Cure. The two firſt Circumſtances are probable, by what is above advanced; but as I wanted a more favourable Opportunity to prove the Third, ſo the moſt inconteſtible that can be given, is, that there is very nigh five Years the Patient has been very well in Health, whereof he has been married three Years, his Wife and two Children that he has alive enjoys perfect Health.

I can juſtify this Fact before any diſcreet and honourable Perſon, and in particular to thoſe who labour under ſuch Misfortunes.

I could ſhew ſeveral of the like Examples; but as it is an Accident that requires privacy, I hope that all reaſonable Perſons will be ſatisfied of this, as being one of the moſt Extraordinary that can be produced, as to the Cure of a Gonorrhæa, Shanker, Bubo, Phimoſis and Pharaſimoſis, I do perform in an eaſy Manner and without Confinement.

N. B. As there are many Gentlemen that go from *England* to *Monpellier* to be cured by Mr. *Chicanneau's* Method, and others by the Salivation, thoſe that are deſirous to be cured by either of thoſe Methods, or this above inſerted, may be attended at their own Houſes, or at mine, with all the Privacy and Care that the Treatment of this Malady requires.

☞ *If any one objects againſt what is here inſerted, unleſs they ſet their Names at length, I ſhall not think it worth my while to anſwer them.*

VINCENT BREST.

From my Houſe in *Panton-ſtreet, Leiceſter-Square.*

FINIS

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM